

REMARKS

The Office Action of 03/21/2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the present remarks is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended per the Examiner's suggestions, which are appreciated.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-9 were rejected as being anticipated by Hao. Claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable over Hao in view of Wishnuesky. These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration respectfully requested.

Hao discloses a "programmable processor circuit," microprocessor core 22 (Hao, Fig. 4). However, the microprocessor core of Hao is not believed to "execute a plurality of series of programmed instructions in support of receiving or outputting, each at a time of reception of a respective one of the temporally successive bits, the processor circuit suspending operation each time after executing a respective one of the series of instructions" as claimed. Although not described in detail in Hao, the microprocessor is believed to essentially perform housekeeping operations for the autobaud module, as opposed to bit processing.

Rather, in Hao, bit-level operations are performed by the hardwired autobaud state machine 20. Such hardwired bit-level processing is described in Hao as being necessary to keep up with ever-increasing bit rates. The autobaud state machine does not execute a series of programmed instructions. Nor does the autobaud module 12 considered as a whole "execute a plurality of series of programmed instructions in support of receiving or outputting, each at a time of reception of a respective one of the temporally successive bits, the processor circuit suspending operation each time after

executing a respective one of the series of instructions" as claimed. The autobaud state machine, in particular, is incapable of suspending operation. A state machine "waiting" for the start bit of a next character is certainly not the same as suspending operation.

Finally, in Hao, there is no "synchronization circuit coupled to the processor circuit to trigger execution of respective ones of the series of instructions [i.e., *programmable* instructions], each time at the time of reception of the respective one of the temporally successive bits." The function of the baud rate determination means 32 of Hao, on the other hand, is simply to determine a value of M and communicate that value to the autobaud state machine 20 and the baud rate generator 30. As seen in Table 2, M is a divisor value that relates the baud rate to the system clock. The communication of M to the autobaud state machine and the baud rate generator, while it may influence hardwired operation of the circuit, does not trigger the execution of a series of *programmable* instructions as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-7 and 9-11 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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